Accidents in mining sector

†1525. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of frequent accidents in the mining sector, Government have any proposal to make mining sector more safe and pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of accidents occurred and number of people died in mining sector during the current year till today as compared to the year 2002;

(d) whether there is any proposal to use developed laser system to make utilization of explosives more safe and free from air pollution during the extraction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Adequate provision already exist in the Mines Act, 1952 & its subordinate legislations for safety of the persons employed in mines and keeping the mine environment pollution free. Further, such safety legislations are kept under constant review and amended from time to time to keep pace with time.

(b) To improve the status of safety in mines, Government through Directorate General of Mines Safety have promoted a three-pronged initiative *viz.* developmental, promotional and advisory role in the safety management. Some of such initiatives are as follows:

- Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulares.
- Promoting participation of workers in safety management.
- Promoting self regulation by management.
- Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.
- Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- Generating safety awareness and information dissemination,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- National Conference on Safety in Mines.
- National Safety Awards.
- Interactions at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.

(c) As reported by Directorate General of Mines Safety, the details of the number of accidents occurred and number of people died in the mining sector during the current year as compared to the year 2002 are as under:

Mineral	Year	Fatal Accidents		
		Number	Killed	Seriously injured persons in fatal accidents
Coal	2002	81	97	15
	2003	83	113	12
	2004	83	92	13
Non-Coal	2002	52	64	3
	2003	55	66	16
	2004	48	54	3
All	2002	133	161	18
Mineral	2003	138	179	28
	2004	131	146	16

Data for the year 2003 & 2004 are provisional.
Figures for the year 2004 are up to 30.11.2004.

(d) and (e) Technology of using lasers to replace explosives in CIL mines is at Research & Development stage. A coal research project is currently ongoing using laser based equipment for better utilization of explosive energy and to control blast damage to the structures in and around opencast projects.